

certainly appropriate. We also should consider additional procedural reforms. One change I favor is having the House regularize the congressional reform process—taking reform up every Congress rather than having one-shot, omnibus packages every twenty years. Reform should be a continual, ongoing process. We should also streamline the budget process, publicize hidden spending projects and tax breaks, and take steps to improve public understanding of Congress.

Ethics reforms: Although we have made some progress on procedural reform in the House, not enough attention has been given to other kinds of institutional reforms—in particular various ethics reforms. It is worthwhile to change our committee or floor procedures, but at a more basic level we need to ensure the basic integrity of the legislative process. We need to pass strong lobbying reform and a ban on lobbyists' gifts to Members, as well as pass campaign finance reform that reduces the role of PACs and monied special interests. Such measures will make it clear to the American people that special interests are not getting favored consideration from policymakers.

We also need to improve our procedures for enforcing House ethics rules. I have introduced a proposal to set up an outside panel of citizens to investigate Member misconduct. That will give our disciplinary proceedings much more credibility. Another priority should be broadening our "preventive ethics" efforts—greater informational, outreach efforts by the Ethics Committee to head off possible cases of Member or staff misconduct before they occur.

One of our top priorities in institutional reform should be making sure that the American people have confidence in the integrity and accountability of the legislative process.

Excessive partisanship: I am also concerned about the heightened partisan tensions in Congress and the increased interest among Members on both sides of the aisle in scoring political points and embarrassing the other side. Many observers feel that the House has become too negative, too bitter, too contentious. That has a clear impact on our ability to come together to pass legislation for the good of the country—indeed it can be a much greater roadblock to effective governance than many of the procedures we reformed on the first day of this session.

Excessive partisanship is not easily addressed through rules changes or reform packages, but it is a problem that we need to start thinking seriously about. One option might be to ask the Ethics Committee to issue clearer guidelines for Members on when spirited debate has stepped over the line and is bringing discredit upon the institution. Another step would be better enforcement of rules now in place to encourage basic civility among Members.

Conclusion: The House has taken some initial steps this session toward reform, but much more needs to be done. To really improve the way we do business, our reforms need to be more effective and much broader in scope.

IN SUPPORT OF AN OPEN MEDIA
IN TAIWAN

HON. TORRICELLI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following for the RECORD:

A PLEA TO AMERICAN FRIENDS OF TAIWAN FOR
A FAIRER TELEVISION MEDIA SYSTEM IN MY
COUNTRY

(By Trong R. Chai, Ph.D.)

Distinguished Members of Congress, Ladies and Gentlemen: Every time I revisited Capitol, I felt so good, as if I came back to my old sweet home. During my long residency in America, I frequently visited this place, as an advocate for human rights for the Taiwanese and for security and independence for Taiwan, my country. Since I left the U.S. for Taiwan at the turn of the last decade, I have continued to champion the same cause and values.

I am here today to call your attention to the problem of equal opportunity for the opposition to access the television media in Taiwan.

At the present, all the three nationwide television stations have been firmly controlled by the ruling Koumintang (KMT) party. By manipulation of content and twist of reporting language, in the gubernatorial and mayoral elections of last December, for example, all television stations depicted the KMT as the defender of order, stability, and prosperity, while demeaning the Democrat progressive party (the DPP), the largest opposition party, as an underminer toward social unrest and a solicitor of China's military attack. In addition, by disparity of coverage, the KMT candidates were given close to 90 percent of news coverage, whereas the DPP candidates, receiving more than 40% of popular votes, were given less than 10% of exposure, thereby creating unfair elections.

The government of Taiwan has decided to license one more nationwide television station next month to three groups submitted applications for the license last June, and one of them was submitted a KMT leader. The followup question is, "Will the fourth television station be granted to a non-KMT group?" This question is so important to the process of democratization in Taiwan that I believe each of you here in this room will be concerned with.

Distinguished Members, and dear friends of Taiwan: Your past influence on Taiwan's democratic development has been enormous and deeply appreciated by the people of Taiwan. Especially, at crucial milestones in the last decade, your voices helped Taiwan successfully end the old one-party dictatorship and create a two-party system, lift the 38 year-old martial law, and close the darkest record of human rights violations; thereby bringing real hopes for democratic reforms and freedom from fear. Now, at this critical juncture in selecting the winner of the fourth nationwide television station, would you give us a timely and most crucial support to ensure that this winner will be a non-KMT applicant so that democracy will not be an empty slogan but a real way of life in Taiwan.

Thank you for your attention and support.

HONORING GREEK INDEPENDENCE
DAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 1995

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the Greek community to celebrate the 174th anniversary of Greek independence.

On March 25, 1821, the Archbishop of Patras blessed the Greek flag at the Aghia Lavra monastery near Kalavrita, marking the beginning of the Greek war of independence

in which nearly 400 years of Ottoman rule was turned aside.

Since the war for independence, Greece has become a steadfast ally of the United States. But that alliance and freedom have not come without a price. More than 600,000 Greeks died while fighting with the Allied forces in World War II against fascism.

Ancient Greece was the birthplace of democratic values. It brought forth the notion that the ultimate power to govern belongs in the hands of the people. It inspired a system of checks and balances to ensure that one branch of government does not dominate any other branch.

These ideals inspired our Founding Fathers as they wrote the Constitution. In the words of Thomas Jefferson, "to the ancient Greeks * * * we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves out of Gothic darkness."

These democratic principles, formed more than 2,500 years ago, have affected change around the world. Witness our own Revolutionary War, the renewal of Greek independence, and the dramatic recent changes in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet States, and around the globe.

Today, the United States is enriched not only by Greek principles but also by its sons and daughters. Greek-Americans have made major contributions to American society, including our arts, sports, medicine, religion, and politics.

My home State of Michigan has been enhanced by the Greek community. In Macomb and St. Clair Counties, we are served by St. John's Greek Orthodox Church and Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. These institutions provide a multitude of community services and add to the rich diversity of the area.

In this changing world of ours, the challenges today include protecting the integrity of the borders of Greece and promoting the democratic ideals which originated in that country. Let us not forget the sacrifices Greeks have made to preserve freedom and enhance democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I join the people of Greece and those of Greek ancestry around the world celebrating Greek Independence Day. I salute all of them for the tremendous contributions to freedom and human dignity which they have made.

TRIBUTE TO LEROY HARRIS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 1995

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our respects and sympathies to the family of Leroy Harris, who passed from this life on March 20, 1995, at the age of 81.

Mr. Harris was born in Mobile, AL. He was both a businessman and professional athlete, having been a semi-professional baseball player in the old Negro Baseball League from 1935–45. After his career as a pitcher, which was reported to be exemplary, Mr. Harris worked at American Radiators and later was an employee for the New York Telephone Co. in Buffalo, N.Y. until his retirement in 1977. Always a hard worker, Mr. Harris bought a taxi